Sociology 3AC Spring 2023

Principles of Sociology: American Cultures

Instructor: Fatmir Haskaj haskaj@berkeley.edu
Monday, Wednesday, and Friday 1-1:59 pm
Location: Dwinelle 145
Office hours: Monday 2-3 pm outside class, Dwinelle courtyard

Course Catalog Description

Comparing the experience of three out of five ethnic groups (e.g., African Americans, Asian Americans, Chicano/Latino, European Americans, and Native Americans) we shall examine historically how each people entered American society and built communities and transformed culture and society. Students will be introduced to the sociological perspective, characteristic methods of research, and such key concepts as culture, community, class, race, social change, and social movements.

Course Description

This is a general introduction to sociology oriented around a core set of themes and topics such as culture, socialization, deviance, groups, immigration, race, ethnicity, and social change. This course emphasizes several key themes in sociology such as the sociological imagination, knowledge, power and social stratification and the principle of social embeddedness (human behavior and knowledge is shaped by social relations) that guides most sociological research. We will begin the semester by developing a strong foundation in sociological theory, enabling us to contextualize, organize and analyze our social worlds. From there we will explore how these categories of understanding overlap, impinge on one another, and intersect. The semester will end with a mapping of group formation, contestation, and transformation.

Classroom Policies:

Laptops: No laptops are allowed in class unless you have a documented need. Your grade, and that of your fellow students, will improve according to the research found here.

Cellphones: No cellphones. No pictures of notes or recordings of the lecture are allowed. No texting. This covers all electronic devices such as PDAs, etc. If you must receive or make a call kindly leave the classroom.

Slides: There is no substitute for attending lectures. Slides may or may not be posted at the instructor's discretion.

Required readings

- Articles will be available free of charge on bCourse for direct download or viewing. Check each weekly module and the syllabus.
Assignments and Grading:

**Quizzes:** There will be occasional quizzes based on the readings and lectures. You will be granted one unexcused absence for the quizzes after which a missed quiz is an automatic zero on that assignment.

**Term Paper:** Each student is expected to write an 8–10-page paper (1800-2200 words) in 12-point times new roman font, 1” margins. The paper should be based on one of the topics or theorists covered in class. The paper is due on **Friday, March 24**, and will be vetted by “Turnitin”.

**Exams:** There will be two examinations: a midterm and a final. Both examinations will have essay-style questions and require knowledge of the course material and the capacity to analyze various paradigms and perspectives. **All students will take the exams on specified dates: exceptions will not be granted unless the requests conform with the accommodations policy of the campus.**

**Grading Structure:**

- Quizzes: 10%
- Midterm: 40%
- Paper: 10%
- Final: 40%

**Academic honesty**

Plagiarism and cheating will result in disciplinary proceedings. If you have questions about what constitutes cheating or plagiarism and what the consequences are read this: [Definitions & Examples of Academic Misconduct | UC Berkeley: Division of Student Affairs](http://recalibrate.berkeley.edu/). The standard penalty for violations of academic integrity in this course will be a grade of 0% on the assignment and reporting to Student Judicial Affairs which may result in a permanent mark on your record.

**Mental Health and Wellness**

All students — regardless of background or identity — may experience a range of issues that can become barriers to learning. These issues include, but are not limited to, strained relationships, anxiety, depression, alcohol and other drug problems, difficulties with concentration, sleep, and eating, and/or lack of motivation. Such mental health concerns can diminish both academic performance and the capacity to participate in daily activities. If you need mental health support or are concerned about a friend, UC Berkeley offers many services, such as free short-term counseling at University Health Services. An excellent campus website having links to many resources: [http://recalibrate.berkeley.edu/](http://recalibrate.berkeley.edu/). Another campus website addressing mental health services in specific reference to this time of the coronavirus pandemic is: [https://uhs.berkeley.edu/coronavirus/student-mental-health](https://uhs.berkeley.edu/coronavirus/student-mental-health). **Remember that seeking help is a good and courageous thing to do — both for yourself and for those who care about you.**
**Class Schedule**

*All readings and schedules are subject to change. Check bCourses regularly. Quizzes and exams are not all shown on the class schedule.*

**PART I Foundations of Sociology**

**Week 1: Introduction: Sociology as a Discipline**

1. Mills, C Wright. *The Sociological Imagination*
2. Giddens, Anthony. “What is Sociology?”


**Week 2: The Origins of Sociology 1/23**


**Week 3: The Modern World: Reason to Revolution and Race 1/30**

   
   1. Video on the Industrial Revolution [here](#)
   
   1. video clip in slide/lect (Haiti revolution)

**Week 4: Culture 2/6**

   
   1. Optional video on Bourdieu


**Week 5: Socialization and Social Interaction 2/13**


**Week 6: Socialization and Social Interaction 2/20 (no Class Monday 2/20)**


**Week 7: Groups, Organizations and Conflict 2/27**


   · Asch Conformity Experiment https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NyDDyT1lDhA
   · Stanley Milgram Experiment https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mOUEC5YXV8U

**Week 8: Deviance and Social Control 3/6**


   1. suggested: "Why you can't blame mass incarceration on the war on drugs" in *Vox*

**Week 9: Exam Week 3/13**

- Film: *Crips and Bloods* (excerpts)
- Review Wednesday March 15
- Exam Friday March 17

**PART II Class, Status, Race and Ethnicity**

**Week 10: Class and Stratification 3/20**

1. Max Weber, "Class, Status, and Party" (excerpts)


**No Class Break 3/27-31**

Spring Recess Monday, March 27–Friday, March 31, 2023

**Week 11: Race and Ethnicity 4/3**

2. Wirth, L. (1927). The ghetto. *American Journal of Sociology, 33*(1), 57–71. [https://doi.org/10.1086/214333](https://doi.org/10.1086/214333)

**Week 12: Race and Ethnicity 4/10**


6. Videos: "Way Out Here" (2010, with Josh Thompson) and "The House I Live In" (1945, with Frank Sinatra).

Week 13: Race and Ethnicity 4/17


Week 14: Race and Ethnicity 4/24


TERM PAPER DUE

Week 15: RRR Week 5/1

STUDY SHEET FOR FINAL EXAM (Brief short outline. This is not comprehensive)

Reading/Review/Recitation Week Mon., May 1–Fri., May 5, 2022

Week 16 Final Exam Week 5/8

Final Exam Wed, May 9, 2022, 8 - 11 AM, Location TBD